

HARRIERS, THE SCOTTISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

A REMARKABLE RACE AND FINISH.
[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]



Hampden Park, Glasgow, was the scene of the 10th cross-country championship of Scotland, and, since the memorable day at Tynecastle when Pennycook beat all others for premier honours by half a mile, no greater finish has taken place or a more remarkable result than that which was witnessed at the historic football ground of the Queen's Park. In a

cross-country run there is little to be seen of either the race or the runners, but as a double course had, at the last moment, been laid out a better opinion could be formed of the struggle for honour than if one had to rely on the various accounts of the race through the country by the competitors themselves. Ten miles is the general distance of the race, but, owing to the peculiar locality, the trail was one of a little over five and a half miles, and this had to be traversed twice. It was a stiff, nasty course, barbed wire, high walls, and steep hills being met with at every turn.

The men set out on the course in a body, but early in the race Stewart Duffus, of Arbroath, began to forge ahead. Gradually he shook off his men, and as he appeared on the track for the first time he had a lead of 150 yards from a comparatively unknown runner in the shape of R. A. Hay, of the Edinburgh Harriers. He was going well and strongly, and many thought the young lad from the capital had burst himself in keeping up with the Forfar crack, for he seemed pretty "groggy." Arthur Reid, of Edinburgh, was another 100 yards behind, and Robertson, the only other fancied man, was at this stage a quarter of a mile behind the leader. The hopes of Duffus's supporters ran high, for at this stage the race seemed as good as won. Up to the time Duffus was lost sight of he was going well and strongly, and half an hour later a cheer went up from a few "red lighties" present on Hampden heights as the black figure of their man was observed spanking along on the brink of the Public Park, a mile from home. A long time elapsed ere another runner appeared on the scene, and at this point Duffus must have had a lead of 200 yards. The various parties went out to urge on their men, and Hay came on like a rocket. The men went out of sight for a while behind some villas, but on again appearing—a few yards from the gate—Duffus was 100 yards to the good. He was in a broken-down condition, however, and Hay looked fit enough to put in a tremendous finish. Duffus crawled round the track with a 30 yards lead, but the game Edinburgh youngster dashed along and put the individual championship to his credit by over 100 yards. The other men were fully half a mile behind, Arthur, Reid, and Third being the next arrivals, while Robertson was still another lap behind the leader. The team championship was settled in another five minutes, Edinburgh winning by eleven points from Clydesdale.

The victory of Hay cannot be made too much of, and the magnificent running of Duffus must also not be overlooked. A great deal of the glory doubtless many will think has been lost by the non-appearance of Andrew Hannah, the holder. After the race, the leading distance runners, past and present, began to discuss how Hannah would have fared in the race, and the great majority were of opinion that both Duffus and Hay would have beaten the veteran over the back. Hannah certainly has rarely been tested in a race across

the plough, but on past forms we have no hesitation in falling in with the opinion that he would have been defeated. Just to give a few points in substantiating this statement it may be said that Robertson, of Clydesdale, has run Hannah to a yard in all the Club distance handicaps. This man was expected by all judges of form to beat the field, Hannah excepted. Instead of this he is over half a mile behind. Another point. Last year at Musselburgh Hannah ran as he had never run before—he broke a few weeks later all records from five up to ten miles—yet on that occasion he only defeated Duffus by 100 yards, Reid by 150, and Thin and Robertson by 200. Reid and Thin ran up to form on Saturday, and were in the best of condition, yet they were defeated by half a mile. The question therefore is—How much would Hannah have been out of it?

In the evening the various medals were presented, and the usual toasts drank. In replying to him, Mr Duffus stated that he had come down to win the championship, and was disappointed at his defeat. He had expected to win, and had decided that he had now competed in his last 10-miles cross-country championship. Mr Hay, it may be mentioned, is the youngest cross-country champion, and, with the exception of Henderson, who won the quarter-mile in 1885, he is the youngest champion we have ever had. He has just turned 19, and is at present in the law profession. He has a splendid style, gifted with great determination, and he should have a long and brilliant athletic career before him. Results:—

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION OF SCOTLAND.

Robert A. Hay, Edinburgh Harrier. Time, 70 min. 42 sec.

TEAM CHAMPIONS OF SCOTLAND.

(1.) EDINBURGH HARRIERS. (Holders 1884-7-81.)

R. A. Hay, ..	1	S. J. Corbett, ..	8
A. Reid, ..	2	W. M. Badenoch, ..	9
J. Thin, ..	3	P. Addison, ..	11

Total, 34 points.

(2.) CLYDESDALE HARRIERS. (Holders 1882-3-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14.)

W. Robertson, ..	4	G. Brown, ..	7
G. Graham, ..	5	A. Burton, ..	10
T. A. Ferguson, ..	6	M. Reid, ..	15

Total, 45 points.

Stewart Duffus does not count in the scores.